

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 964

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB GR ILO

SUBJECT: ILO CRITICISM OF GREEK LABOR LAW

1. LAST WEEK THE GREEK PRESS CARRIED REPORTS BASED ON A UPI STORY BY JOHN A. CALLCOTT, DATEDLINE GENEVA, MAY 24, THAT THE ILO'S COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAD CITED GREECE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONVENTION 87 ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND RIGHT TO ORGANIZE. IN HIS ARTICLE CALLCOTT LISTED GREECE AMONG SOME 39 COUNTRIES SO CITED BY THE COMMITTEE IN ITS REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC) IN GENEVA THIS MONTH.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE CASE OF GREECE THE OFFENDING PASSAGES WERE IN LAW 330 OF MAY 17, 1976, GREECE'S BASIC LAW ON TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

ARTICLE 21, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THAT LAW READS: "ALL MEMBERS OF A TRADE UNION HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE ELECTED (TO UNION OFFICE) PROVIDED THAT: (A) THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR 21ST YEAR AND (B) ONE YEAR HAS ELAPSED SINCE THEIR ADMISSION."

ARTICLE 31, PARA 2 OF THE LAW PROVIDES THAT AT A
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JOINT ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER UNIONS "THE VOTES OF EACH UNION, OR OF THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THEIR ENTIRETY, CANNOT HAVE A STRENGTH EXCEEDING 1/10 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES" CAST IN THE ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, BOTH OF THESE PROVISIONS OF LAW 330 WERE ABOLISHED BY A LEGISLATIVE DECREE PUBLISHED IN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON FEB 23, 1977.

3. THE CALLCOTT ARTICLE APPARENTLY CAME UP DURING THE VISIT TO ATHENS MAY 23-28 OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS (IAM) PRESIDENT FLOYD SMITH. ACCORDING TO A GSEE STAFFER WHO WAS PRESENT, SMITH WAS SATISFIED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT THE RESTRICTIVE PROVISIONS HAD BEEN ABOLISHED SOME MONTHS AGO. THE SAME GSEE STAFFER SAID THAT THE GREEK DELEGATION TO THE ILC IS PREPARED TO GIVE FORMAL NOTICE OF THE AMENDMENTS TO LAW 330 SHOULD AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION ARISE.

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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